

I encourage the commissioners to consider expanding low-power FM radio in rural western Montana. Our mountainous terrain here prevents us from getting the big-city stations in Missoula and Spokane, so our new LPFM station in St. Regis will be the only station available during the day and in all weather conditions. The station is a project of the local high school, where the students are gaining important public presentation skills and critical thinking skills. The radio station will also be an important aid in public safety, as we are surrounded by a national forest that is often threatened by wildfires, and storms affect road conditions. We appreciate the opportunity to develop our own community station and encourage the FCC to allow more such LPFM licenses here in Montana so that our neighboring towns can have the same opportunity that we have. Thank you.